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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Twelfth session
25 March-4 April 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda

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Annotations

Item 1. Election of officers

It has been the practice of the Committee, since its inception, to elect five officers, namely, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. The Committee may wish to do the same for the twelfth session.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The provisional agenda and documentation for the twelfth session of the Committee were approved by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1989/117.

Pursuant to Council resolution 1979/69, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the state of preparedness of documentation for the twelfth session of the Committee.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparedness of documentation for the twelfth session of the Committee for Natural Resources (E/C.7/1991/L.1)

Item 3. Energy resources

By its resolution 1989/6, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Committee on Natural Resources should give priority consideration, at its twelfth session, to the question of energy resources, emphasizing the need to intensify technical cooperation programmes aimed at the exploration, development and efficient utilization of the energy resources of the developing countries, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at that session a report on the question of technical cooperation programmes in energy resources.

In the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee a report on trends and salient issues in energy, including the potential of development and utilization of the natural gas, heavy crude, tar sand, oil shale and geothermal resources available in the developing countries, including prospects for subregional, regional and interregional cooperation in that area.

The Council further requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee a report on energy-saving strategies and measures to improve the efficient utilization of the electricity system, on power-loss reduction and on the upgrading of electricity generation plants, including the level of investment required, as well as other possible options, such as small hydropower stations, to overcome the lack of electrical power in the developing countries.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation programmes on the exploration, development and efficient use of energy resources (E/C.7/1991/13)

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy resources (E/C.7/1991/9)

Report of the Secretary-General on energy-saving strategies and measures to improve the efficient utilization of electric power systems (E/C.7/1991/12)

Item 4. Water resources

In its resolution 1989/7, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its twelfth session a comprehensive report on strategies and measures necessary for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan, as requested in Council resolution 1987/7.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on strategies and measures necessary for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s (E/C.7/1991/8)

Item 5. Mineral resources

In resolution 1989/5 on trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources, especially small-scale mining, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to conduct studies on prospects for small-scale mining, and to evaluate the experience gained through technical cooperation endeavours. It also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its twelfth session an updated report on trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources, especially small-scale mining, including the outcome of the Fifth Tripartite Technical Meeting for Mines Other than Coal Mines, to be convened by the International Labour Organisation at Geneva in 1990, particularly with regard to issues relating to working conditions and occupational safety and health hazards in small-scale mining.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources: a review of recent supply, demand/consumption and price trends" (E/C.7/1991/4)

Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Small-scale mining prospects in developing countries: a review of recent activities" (E/C.7/1991/5)

Item 6. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

In resolution 1989/10, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its twelfth session a concise, updated report on permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources (E/C.7/1991/6)

Item 7. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources

In resolution 1989/8, the Economic and Social Council took note of the two options proposed in the report of the Secretary-General (E/C.7/1989/2) and requested the Secretary-General to submit an updated version of that report to the Committee at its twelfth session. The Council, requested the Secretary-General to explore appropriate ways and means by which the developing countries could gain easier and increased access to remote-sensing systems in order to optimize the exploration and exploitation of their natural resources. It also requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts, within existing resources, in the dissemination of available remote-sensing software packages, in both the commercial and the public sectors, for the exploration, exploitation, management and development of natural resources through application-oriented workshops, seminars and training courses to be organized at the regional or the country level in developing countries, and to report to the Committee at its twelfth session on the implementation of the resolution.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on information referral systems on satellite remote-sensing data (E/C.7/1991/7)

Item 8. Coordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources

In its resolution 1989/12, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its twelfth session an updated report containing an overview of the activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources, identifying the organizations or units within the United Nations system mandated to carry out work in those fields and assessing the extent to which the guidelines provided by the Committee had been followed. It further requested the Secretary-General to identify, in the report referred to above, the existing priorities and objectives for the work of the United Nations system in the field of natural resources.

In resolution 1989/11, the Council requested the Secretary-General to include in the above-mentioned report a section on the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system relating to the impact of financial constraints on developing countries in the development, conservation and maintenance of their natural resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General updating an overview of the activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources (E/C.7/1991/10)

Item 9. Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources

At its eleventh session, the Committee on Natural Resources, by decision 11/1, decided to include in the agenda of its twelfth session an item entitled "Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources", on the understanding that the Committee would treat that item in a focused manner and in full accord with the theme assigned to it by the Economic and Social Council.

The Committee requested the Secretary-General to prepare, for its twelfth session, a comprehensive report on the activities undertaken by the United Nations system in connection with disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system concerning disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources (E/C.7/1991/11)

Item 10. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

In its resolution 1989/9, the Economic and Social Council requested that projects implemented by the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration incorporate, where appropriate, new techniques, including remote sensing, and provide appropriate opportunities by which developing countries could enhance their technical capacity for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources within the existing resources, and requested the Fund to expand the use of locally available goods and services in the implementation of its projects.

The Council requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the Committee at its twelfth session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

Documentation

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (DP/1991/)

Item 11. Programme questions

(a) Programme performance and implementation

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/238, the Committee will have before it relevant excerpts from the reports of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/45/218 and Add.1) and of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its thirtieth session (A/45/16).

(b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993

At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and reaffirmed that the plan is the principal policy directive of the United Nations and shall serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets (resolution 45/253).

The Committee will have before it for discussion a note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in the field of natural resources and energy for the biennium 1992-1993, drawn up in accordance with the strategy described in the programmes on natural resources and energy of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

The Secretariat will also inform the Committee about possible revisions to the medium-term plan covering the biennium 1994-1995.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in the field of natural resources and energy for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/C.7/1991/CRP.)

Item 12. Provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Committee

In its resolution 1989/114, the Economic and Social Council urged its subsidiary bodies to implement fully Council resolution 1979/41 in submitting to the Council for consideration their provisional agendas together with the lists of requested documentation, with a view to ensuring greater consistency in requests for documentation and improving reporting procedures.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Committee

Item 13. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twelfth session

The Committee will adopt its report to the Economic and Social Council.

In its resolution 1989/114, the Council requested its subsidiary bodies to highlight policy recommendations and decisions resulting from their deliberations for consideration and appropriate action by the Council.